

The Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis
Vestry Meeting
June 8, 2021 7:00-9:00 pm via Zoom

Minutes approved July 13, 2021

Present: David Martin, Sarah Conning, Bob Polkinghorn, Jessie Ann Owens, Kimo Kimokeo, Ann Liu, Chris Reynolds, Julie Knudsen, Stan Forbes, Elizabeth Young, Honna Steissberg, Pamela Dolan, Margaret Grayden

Absent: Lisa Leigh

Guests: Robert Fuller-Lynch

Bob called the meeting to order at 7:06pm

I. OPENING PRAYER

Pamela shared a video about the spirituality of conflict and led the group in prayer.

II. ACTION: Approval of Draft Agenda

A motion (Reynolds) to approve the draft agenda was seconded (Martin), amended to add time for Executive Session, and passed unanimously.

III. ACTION: Approval of May 11, 2021 Minutes

A motion (Knudsen) to approve the draft minutes of May 11 with the following correction was seconded (Kimokeo) and passed unanimously.

Correction: item 5 was corrected to read “from Arts, Cultures, and Designs of Remediation at UC Davis” rather than “from international house”

IV. REPORT: May Financial Statements

Julie reviewed the May financial statement, noting that pledge income and expenses are very close to what it was at this time last year. This is encouraging news as we had to budget for less income. She addressed a question about why the diocesan apportionment (line 857) is higher compared to last year, noting that the year-to-date apportionment is actually very similar. She explained that a complicated formula is used to calculate the amount of the apportionment but that because of the size of our budget St. Martin’s typically ends up paying an alternative flat rate of 17% of real operating expenses, amounting to around \$80,000 per year.

V. RECTOR’S REPORT:

Pamela brought forward the three priorities that were identified in the Mutual Ministry Review (MMR) of March/April 2020, inviting vestry to reflect on how we are doing with the goals identified through that process:

1. Invite, Welcome, Connect (IWC)
2. Enhance digital technologies
3. Inreach: develop and maintain meaningful opportunities for mutually supportive relationships among parishioners

Pamela shared that the Ministry Council is considering IWC as a high priority. IWC is a program of the national church, rolled out in our diocese a couple of years ago. Ministry Council has agreed to implement it for St. Martin's. It requires a leadership team, so Pamela hopes vestry members can go to 2 two-hour meetings to learn the program. Proposed dates in September 9/22 and 9/29 Wednesday evenings. This will include the Vestry, the Ministry Council, and other leaders.

VI. ACTION: Plan for Matthew 25 Disbursement for 2021

Bob reviewed the status of the Matthew 25 funds for 2021 and Vestry's recent decision to take a couple of months to develop a plan. Ann shared that draft grant guidelines were put forward in August 2020 but never acted upon. She suggested making use of those guidelines rather than starting from scratch. Jessie pointed out that these guidelines were well-conceived but less suited to the 2021 process.

A motion was made (Owens) and seconded (Forbes) to establish a 3-person task force and principles to guide disbursement of the 2021 Matthew 25 and Frost funds. Discussion ensued. Jessie pointed out that this structure and process would parallel what we did with the special plate offerings of Christmas 2020 and Eastertide 2021. The task force would consist of one member from Vestry, one member from SJO, and one member from the parish at-large. Task force members may consult, as needed, with those they are representing.

Principles for disbursement decisions were discussed, and there was general support and agreement around the following:

- The committee shall consider non-profit organizations inside and outside the Davis community.
- No minimum or maximum funding recommendations per organization, as long as the total recommendation is within the 2021 Matthew 25 plus Frost Fund budgets.
- Priority shall be given to our longstanding "mission partners" in the Davis community for our 2021 giving (e.g., STEAC, DCMH, etc.) as well as organizations where our members are active in giving time and talent.
- Priority shall be given to those organizations addressing food and housing insecurity and related needs highlighted by COVID pandemic.

Clarification was provided that the Frost Fund has some restrictions to give beyond the diocese.

A proposed amendment (Liu) to have a 5-person rather than 3-person group was seconded (Young) and defeated by a vote of 8 against (Martin, Forbes, Knudsen, Reynolds, Conning, Owens, Polkinghorn, Dolan) to 4 in favor (Liu, Kimokeo, Young, Stassburg).

The original motion passed by unanimous vote.

VII. UPDATE/DISCUSSION – Stan Forbes Ranch

Bob shared that in the past month he and Pamela and Carolyn Chamberlain have had a set of discussions with Stan to understand his intentions, hopes, dreams and to explore the possibilities of his proposed gift. Carolyn has professional expertise relevant for the discussions. Pamela summarized the next step: she has been in contact with the diocese to set up a meeting to understand their role and position in the decision. The treasurer and the chancellor of the Diocese will meet with Stan, Bob, Pamela. Stan shared that for the near/intermediate term we should agree on a lease for \$1 per year to use the land as the church wants. Acquisition will take more time, so he would like to proceed with such a lease arrangement. It was pointed out that we will need to explore questions about liability and about what uses would be permitted.

VIII. ACTION: Terms of Rector's Home Loan

There was discussion about the terms of the rector's home loan, but no motion or decision was made.

IX. REPORTS – Jr. Warden, Sr. Warden

ACTION: Vote on Storm Water Ballot

Jessie provided an overview of the City of Davis ballot measure for a storm water fee increase. The Buildings and Grounds committee has discussed the measure and recommends a Yes vote. Tim Williams (a civil engineer with knowledge of the issue) also recommends a Yes vote. The increase to the church of about \$2,000 per year may be able to be reduced based on improvements we have made on our land, and Tim has offered to pursue requesting this discount from the City. *A motion to vote yes on the ballot measure was made (Reynolds), seconded (Forbes), and passed unanimously.*

The Landscape Task Force will share its report to a joint meeting of the Vestry and the Ministry Council on 6/11/2021.

Bob urged everyone to read the report from Families Together, as well as the abstract of a racial justice audit of the Episcopal Church.

X. ACTION: Approve Consent Agenda

A motion to approve the consent agenda (Liu) was seconded (Martin) and passed unanimously.

Executive Session started at 8:57pm and ended at 9:06pm. No decisions were made.

Jessie reminded us to look at the Vestry Committees document before next meeting, with feedback to Kimo or Jessie.

XI. CLOSING PRAYER - Pamela closed the meeting in prayer.

The meeting ended at 9:08pm

Meeting materials

Draft Minutes of May 2021 meeting

May Financials

Vision and Goals Matthew 25

Motion Dolan Home Loan Amendment (Background)

Stormwater Ballot (Background & Motion)

Vestry Committees (June 2021 draft): Structure; 2021 Membership

Building & Grounds Report